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March 2, 1976

AVON TOWNSHIP

Mr. John Lamerato, General Manager  
Southeastern Oakland County  
Incinerator Authority  
P. O. Box 1248  
Berkley, Michigan 48072

Dear Mr. Lamerato:

SUBJECT: Southeastern Oakland County Incinerator Authority

With the Department's continued role in the responsibility to protect the public health and environment with reference to the proper disposal of refuse under the provisions of Act 87, P.A. 1965, as amended, we find it is necessary at this time to initiate an investigative program on ground and surface water quality and protection relative to the Authority's sanitary landfill north of School Road in Avon Township.

As you are aware, we have received a copy of a groundwater contamination study prepared for the Bureau of Facilities, Department of Management and Budget, at the direction of the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee of the Michigan Legislature dealing with the reported pollution of domestic wells along Parke Street in Avon Township. The report confirmed the information we had obtained and the position the Division had taken with respect to the cause of contamination of the groundwater aquifer used directly as a source of supply for these domestic wells. In the conclusions of the report, statements were made identifying potential pollution problems related to the general topography and geology of the area and the operation of the existing landfills as they might affect the aquifer, groundwater movement generally directed in an easterly direction towards the Clinton River, and a degradation of the water table aquifer by presently active landfills. The evaluation conclusions were culminated by an indication that if conditions are left as they presently exist, the entire aquifer will become contaminated eastward to the Clinton River.

On the basis of the evaluation of this report by various members of the Department including staff of the Water Resources Commission, it has been determined that our course of action with respect to the continued operation of your landfill and others within the immediate vicinity will be dependent upon the results of a ground and surface water quality monitoring program and the

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cooperation of your agency in correcting or eliminating any problems that may be found that are now or might in the future contribute to the pollution of the aquifer and surface waters of the State. It is therefore our intent to deny any license application for either the expansion or renewal of existing operations until it has been determined that the groundwater aquifer or surface waters influenced by these operations are not being contaminated or that should the need arise redesign or corrective measures will be instituted by the operators to correct these conditions.

We have presently established a water quality monitoring program and it would behoove the Authority to cooperate in this endeavor. I would further suggest that your consulting engineer be made aware of the investigation and the concerns of the Department so he will have some lead time to consider any design or operating changes that may be necessary to prevent degradation of the waters of the State.

Staff will be contacting you shortly relative to their continued groundwater monitoring program. Meanwhile should you have any questions concerning this action or the conditions under which we are proceeding, please don't hesitate to contact this office. Any formal action on the denial of a license application will follow the prescribed procedures of the Administrative Rules and you will, at that time, be apprised of your right to request an administrative hearing.

Very truly yours,



Fred B. Kellow, Chief  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Environmental Protection Branch

FBK:jf

cc: Oakland County Health Dept.  
Avon Township ✓  
Stewart Freeman  
Wayne Verspoor